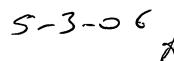


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TW 1722

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: B.E. SORENSEN

Confirmation No.: 4089

Application No: 09/743,589

Group Art Unit: 1722

Filing Date: January 24, 2003

Examiner: D.H. Heckenberg Jr.

For: NITS SEPARATOR

Attorney Docket No.: 81421-4043

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

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In response to the final Office Action dated March 3, 2006, applicants respectfully request the entry of the following amendments and comments into this file of this application.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS begin on page 2.

REMARKS begin on page 5.

No fees are believed to be due for this submission. Should any fees be required, however, please charge such fees to Winston & Strawn LLP Deposit Account No. 50-1814.

> O.K. TO ENTER D.H. 5-10-6